

Remarks/Arguments:

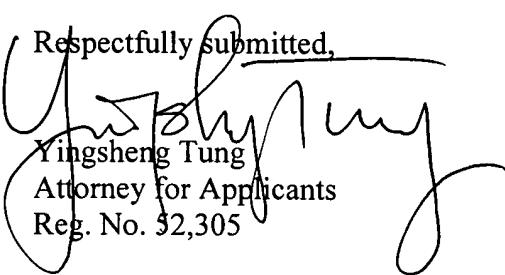
Applicants thank Examiner Clark again for her careful examination of this application and clear explanation of the claim rejections, and for allowing claims 15-20 and conditionally allowing claim 6. Responsive to the Office action, applicants canceled claims 5 and 6 and incorporate all limitations from claims 5 and 6 in the base claim 1. As amended, claim 1 has all the allowable limitations in claim 6 and stands patentable.

Claims 2-4 and 7-8 depend directly or indirectly from patentable claim 1 with additional limitations. In particular, claims 2 and 3 further limit the dimension and the structure of the substrate; claim 4 further limits the amount with which the balls project from the surface of the contact pads; claim 7 further limits the manner of applying the force; and claim 8 further limits the extent of force applied and the coupling of the balls and the substrate. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5 and 7-8 stand patentable over the reference by virtue of their dependency and by the additional limitations they add to the base claim.

Applicants also insert a new claim 21. Claim 21 distinguishes over the Ohno patent because the Ohno patent discloses copper-plating a pile of layers 40, with the bumps in place to form leads 2; but it does not disclose disposing a plurality of balls to a substrate that already has a plurality of contact pads associated with holes.

In summary, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in allowable form; pending claims 1 is now patentable because it has all the allowable limitation in claims 6 and 5. Claims 2-4 and 7-8 also stand patentable because they properly depend from claim 1. The new claim 21 also distinguishes over the Ohno patent and stands patentable. Applicants respectfully request timely allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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